

# **Appendix 3**

## **RC&D Fire District Assessment**

## **Central Fire District High Country Resource, Conservation and Development Area June 2003**

The following analysis was conducted as part of the vulnerability assessment to establish those challenges facing the local fire response elements. During meetings with the District Fire Chief the following concerns were expressed and documented in several reports found below.

- ☐ Lack of adequate water supplies, water distribution systems, etc.
- ☐ Inaccessible structures
- ☐ Narrow roads and bridges
- ☐ Load limits on bridges
- ☐ Inadequate fire plans
- ☐ Inadequate Protection Codes and Code Enforcement
- ☐ Lack of integrated communications, planning, preparedness, and response protocols
- ☐ The need for additional and improved communications equipment
- ☐ Need for additional training of personnel
- ☐ Insufficient staffing and retention of volunteers
- ☐ Insufficient public education
- ☐ Insufficient Fire District coverage
- ☐ Need for Fire Station construction/expansion
- ☐ Need for additional response vehicles and equipment
- ☐ Need for maintenance and testing procedures
- ☐ Lack of Resources: need for assistance in obtaining grants and other funding

The challenges facing the Central Fire District are not unlike those facing most rural fire districts throughout the U.S. The need for additional labor, vehicles, equipment, and training are all common challenges facing rural departments. The Fire District faces these challenges and others listed. The current response capability, while it could be improved, is adequate for most of the response areas within the county.

The Central Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district serving Rigby, Ririe, Menan and Lewisville in Jefferson County. These communities have experienced some growth and are located North of Idaho Falls near Highway 20. Most of the Fire District's topography is rolling hills suitable for farming and ranching.

### **Organizational Structure**

The Central Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organization consists of a chief, four battalion chiefs, a HazMat officer, an EMS officer, a tech rescue officer and a fire training officer. There are four captains, four lieutenants, four safety officers, 51 firefighters, 24 firefighter/EMT's and 14 EMT's.

### **Facilities:**

The District has four fire stations with 18 bays. There is one station in Rigby with seven bays; one station in Menan with three bays; one station in Ririe with five bays and one station in Lewisville with three bays.

### **Response Area:**

The Central Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, forest, wildland urban interface, residential, business, high tech (power sub-station) and high risk with potato processing plants and a fertilizer plant. The District serves 203 square miles.

### **Budget and Funding:**

The budget has remained relatively steady over the past few years with 95% of funding coming from tax dollars. Funds are also generated through one-time purchase grants.

### **Grants:**

Grant funds have been received from the BLM, Forest Service, the INEEL and the State EMS Bureau. The District has begun to study the National Fire Plan.

### **Records Management:**

The District does maintain a comprehensive, computerized records management system. The system can track training, incident reports, medical CEU's, recruitment, personnel, apparatus and vehicles. The District uses Firehouse software.

### **Firefighting Program:**

The Central Fire District has 75 personnel within the firefighting program, all paid staff. Fire response includes protection for structures, wildland suppression, EMS extrication, HazMat and terrorist threat. The District responds to approximately 551 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including scene size-up, ICS system, rapid entry team, water supply and initial attack. The District does not see itself at risk due to wildland urban interface or terrorist attacks. There are 62 firefighters trained in wildland suppression. It was reported that the District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include water mains, hydrants, bodies of water and a District water tender system.

#### **Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 4 Station, 18 Bays</li><li>● Paid Personnel</li><li>● 7,000 Structural/1,500 Wildland Total GPM Capacity</li><li>● Computerized Record Keeping System</li><li>● Fire Response: Structural, Agricultural, Residential &amp; Business</li><li>● 7 Structural; 2 Structural/Wildland &amp; 4 Wildland Vehicles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Add 3 Bays in Rigby; 2 Offices in Rigby; 1 HazMat Office and 1 Central Office</li><li>● Dry Hydrants</li><li>● Grants for One-time Purchases</li><li>● Library of EMS/Fire Related Grants</li><li>● Computer and Software Courses</li><li>● Procedural Plan for Testing/Recording Information for Equipment</li></ul>

### **Hazardous Materials Program:**

The District does have a HazMat Team. This team works in conjunction with the Idaho Falls Fire Department. Mutual aid agreements are in place with the Forest Service, BLM, INEEL, Idaho Department of Lands, with the City of Roberts and with Madison County in Rexburg.

### **EMS Program:**

The District does provide EMS services. It is licensed at the EMT-Basic, Non-transport level and at EMT-Basic level.

### EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● EMT Basic, Non-Transport</li><li>● EMT Basic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Grants for Training and Materials</li><li>● Improved EMS Materials Library</li></ul>

#### Training and Certification:

The District does have minimum requirements for training and certification. It does have a training program in place.

### Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Structural Protection, Wildland Fire Suppression, EMS, HazMat and Rescue (Revis Training, Swift Water, High Angle)</li><li>● Some NFPA, NWCG Standards</li><li>● Standard Operating Procedures</li><li>● Limited Power Point Presentations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Wildlands Fire Training – All Personnel Trained to Same Level</li><li>● On-site Training by Certified Instructors</li><li>● Train Instructors</li><li>● Refresher Courses</li><li>● Current NFPA Student Manuals &amp; Workbooks</li><li>● Video's (or ability to borrow or rent)</li><li>● Power Point Presentations</li><li>● Training on Presentation of Courses</li></ul>

#### Communications:

Communication for the District is dispatched out of the Jefferson County 911 dispatch center. The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units.

### Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Responds to Remote Alarm Calls</li><li>● Portable Radios</li><li>● All Vehicles Radio Equipped</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Programming So All Radios Have Same Capabilities</li><li>● Unified Frequencies in All Radios</li><li>● Upgrade Older Hand-held Radios</li></ul>

#### Prevention and Inspection:

The District does not administer and enforce Fire Code regulations but it does conduct fire cause and origin investigations.

### Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fire Cause &amp; Origin Investigations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● County to Adopt Code Enforcement</li><li>● Implement County Building Inspector Position</li></ul>

#### Public Education:

The District does conduct public education programs for wildland fires, structural fires and home safety. It also provides education on what to do when an emergency vehicle approaches for new drivers. It does participate in public outreach at fairs, schools, public events and fire station activities.

**Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Outreach Education</li><li>● Public Education Programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Grants to Purchase Handout Literature</li></ul>

## **Hamer Fire District**

### **High Country Resource, Conservation and Development Area**

#### **June 2003**

The Hamer Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. Hamer is located on Interstate 15, north of Idaho Falls. The topography of the area is low rolling hills. The major industry is agriculture, farming and ranching. The largest employer in the area is Larsen Farms, a potato farming and processing operation.

#### **Organizational Structure**

The Hamer Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organizational structure includes a fire chief, a secretary/treasurer and five firefighters. All staff are volunteers.

#### **Facilities:**

The District has one fire station with four bays double deep. The present station is new with room for expansion.

#### **Response Area:**

The Hamer Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, wildland urban interface, residential, business, and high risk with the potato processing plant. The total square miles of response area was not provided.

#### **Budget and Funding:**

The budget has remained steady over the past few years with 100% of funding coming from tax dollars.

#### **Grants:**

Grant funds have been received from the BLM and Forest Service. The District has begun to study the National Fire Plan.

#### **Records Management:**

The District does maintain a manual records management system. The chief is exploring record keeping systems at this time.

#### **Firefighting Program:**

The Hamer Fire District has 10 personnel within the firefighting program all volunteers. Fire response includes protection for structures and wildland suppression. The District responds to approximately 5 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including scene size-up, external initial attack and water supply. The District does see itself at risk due to wildland urban interface but not to terrorist attacks. There are 2 firefighters trained in wildland suppression. It was reported that the District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include wells at station and agricultural pumps during the growing season.

### Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 Station, 4 Bays</li> <li>● Volunteer Personnel</li> <li>● 500 Structural/400 Wildland Total GPM Capacity</li> <li>● Manual Record Keeping System</li> <li>● Fire Response: Structural, Agricultural, Residential &amp; Business</li> <li>● 1 Structural; 1 Structural/Wildland &amp; 3 Wildland Vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Better Maintenance of Access Roads</li> <li>● Smaller, More Maneuverable Wildland Trucks</li> <li>● Well and Pump</li> <li>● Tender</li> <li>● Grants</li> <li>● Assistance with Grant Writing</li> <li>● Grant Writer</li> <li>● Library Dedicated to EMS/Fire Grants</li> <li>● Local Grant Writing Course</li> <li>● Computer and Software for Record Keeping</li> <li>● Current NFPA Manuals</li> <li>● Proper Testing Equipment</li> </ul>

#### **Hazardous Materials Program:**

The District does not have a HazMat Team. It will respond for support and scene safety. The District does have a written agreement with South Fremont County and is working on agreements with West Jefferson and Clark Counties.

#### **EMS Program:**

The District does not provide EMS services. It will respond to assist EMS units.

#### **Training and Certification:**

The District does not have minimum requirements for training and certification. It does have a training program in place.

### Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minimal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wildland Fire Training – All Personnel Trained to Same Level</li> <li>● Grants to Assist in Setting Up Training Program</li> <li>● Training at the Local Level</li> <li>● Training Materials</li> <li>● IFSTA Student Manuals, Workbooks, Videos</li> <li>● Local Instructors</li> </ul>

#### **Communications:**

Communication for the District is dispatched out of the Jefferson County 911 dispatch center. The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does not have sufficient hand-held units.

### Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responds to Remote Alarm Calls</li> <li>● Portable Radios</li> <li>● All Vehicles Radio Equipped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A Members Equipped with Pagers and Hand-held Radios</li> </ul>

**Prevention and Inspection:**

The District does not administer and enforce Fire Code regulations nor conduct fire cause and origin investigations.

**Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
• Support from the State Fire Marshal's Office	• Training & Proper Equipment for Investigations

**Public Education:**

The District does conduct public education programs for wildland fires, structural fires and home safety. It does participate in public outreach at schools, public events and fire station activities.

**Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
• Outreach Education	• Grants to Purchase Handout Materials
• Public Education Programs	• Prepackaged Presentations & Handouts



## **Roberts Fire District**

### **High Country Resource, Conservation and Development Area**

#### **June 2003**

The Roberts Fire District is a combined municipal and fire protection district. Roberts sits west of Interstate 15 and it is a small growing community. The major industry is agricultural based. Topography is basically flat farmland with a large marshland that is a wild bird sanctuary.

#### **Organizational Structure**

The Roberts Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organization consists of a chief, an assistant chief, a training officer, a secretary, 11 firefighters, 4 firefighters/EMT's and 4 EMT's. The District recently merged the EMS and fire services.

#### **Facilities:**

The District has one fire station with 3 bays. The Chief would like to add four more bays to the present station. Because of space constraints, some apparatus has to be left outside.

#### **Response Area:**

The Roberts Fire District provides fire protection for agricultural, rangelands, wildland urban interface, residential, business and high risk with a propane bulk plant. The District serves 300 square miles.

#### **Budget and Funding:**

The budget has remained relatively steady over the past few years with 100% of funding coming from tax dollars.

#### **Grants:**

Grant funds have been received from the BLM, Forest Service, the State EMS Bureau and other private donations to the QRU. The District has begun to study the National Fire Plan.

#### **Records Management:**

The District does not maintain a comprehensive records management system. The Chief is looking into several programs to track District activities and operations. The Fire District Clerk keeps all financial records.

#### **Firefighting Program:**

The Roberts Fire District has 23 personnel within the firefighting program, all volunteers. Fire response includes protection for structures, wildland suppression and EMS. The District responds to approximately 140 fire-related incidents annually. It has the capability of a 10-minute response time including scene size-up, call for mutual aid and water/tender operations. The District does see itself at risk due to wildland urban interface but not to terrorist attacks. There are 11 firefighters trained in wildland suppression. It was reported that the District has some adequate and reliable water sources. The primary water supply sources include water mains, hydrants, bodies of water and a District water tender system.

### **Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 Station, 3 Bays</li> <li>● Volunteer Personnel</li> <li>● 2,000 Structural/600 Wildland Total GPM Capacity</li> <li>● Manual Record Keeping System</li> <li>● Fire Response: Structural, Agricultural, Residential &amp; Business</li> <li>● 2 Structural; 2 Structural/Wildland &amp; 1 Wildland Vehicles</li> <li>● 1 QRU Unit</li> <li>● Grid Access Address System</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addition to Current Station of Four Bays</li> <li>● Grants</li> <li>● Additional Hydrants</li> <li>● Grants for One-time Purchases</li> <li>● Library Dedicated to EMS/Fire for Grant Research</li> <li>● Grant Writer and/or Person to Assist with Tracking of Grants</li> <li>● A Local Course on Grant Writing</li> <li>● Computer &amp; Software for Records Management</li> <li>● Equipment Testing Materials</li> <li>● Proper NFPA Manuals</li> </ul>

#### **Hazardous Materials Program:**

The District does not have a HazMat Team. It will respond to incidents for scene safety and to assist the team.

#### **EMS Program:**

The District is licensed to provide EMS services at the QRU level. The District has a total of 100 calls annually.

### **EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EMT Basic</li> <li>● First Responder</li> <li>● 1 QRU Unit</li> <li>● 1 Ambulance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Grants to Improve Apparatus &amp; Equipment</li> <li>● Improved Assistance from the EMS System, Mostly In Communication</li> <li>● Assistance in Developing a Training Program</li> </ul>

#### **Training and Certification:**

The District does have minimum requirements for training and certification. It does have a training program in place.

### **Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EMS Basic</li> <li>● Some IFSTA Essentials Manuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student Manuals &amp; Workbooks Both for IFSTA &amp; NWCG</li> <li>● Certified Instructors for On-site Training</li> <li>● Assistance with Training Funds</li> <li>● Video's, Computer Training Programs</li> </ul>

#### **Communications:**

Communication for the District is dispatched out of the Jefferson County 911 dispatch center. The District does have sufficient radio communication capacity. All vehicles are equipped with radios and the District does have sufficient hand-held units.

### **Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responds to Remote Alarm Calls</li> <li>● Portable Radios</li> <li>● All Vehicles Radio Equipped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None Identified</li> </ul>

**Prevention and Inspection:**

The District does not administer and enforce Fire Code regulations or conduct fire cause and origin investigations.

**Public Education:**

The District does not conduct public education programs or public outreach. The Chief would like to begin a library of prevention materials and visual aids.

**Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs	
Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● None	● Grants to Purchase Handout Materials and Visual Aids